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Title : Need to provide a lumpsum grant to the Football Academy set up by Mohan Bagan and Steel Authority of India.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (DURGAPUR): I want to draw the attention of the whole House as well as the Minister of Youth and Sports regarding the participation of our younger generation in Olympics and other sports activities in the world. Today, I am confined only to football activities. To accelerate the football activities in our younger generation, three years ago, one of the leading clubs of Kolkata, that is, Mohan Bagan and the Steel Authority of India formed an Academy at Durgapur in West Bengal to boost the skills of our younger generation.

Over 8,000 teams from five Continents, from grass-root clubs to some of the most illustrious names in football, have fought their way through local, national and regional tournaments over the past year to win one of the twenty places at the Tenth Edition of the Manchester United Premier Cup World Finals. Manchester United will host the Under-15 Football competition from 8th to 11th August, 2006 with tournament matches taking place at their training ground in Carrington, England. The Premier Cup has grown to become a global event jointly sponsored by Nike and Manchester United as part of their commitment to youth participation and skill development.

Since its inception, the competition has become a providing ground of many talented youngsters and "Premier Cup Old Boys" is not only representing their club but also their country at the highest level.

I would just like to highlight as to how within three years, Mohan Bagan-SAIL Academy has become eligible to participate in the forthcoming competition at Manchester from 8th to 11th August, 2006. But it is difficult to run the Academy continuously if funds are not provided by the Government.

So, I urge upon the Government to sponsor the Academy with a lumpsum grant to continue the Academy so that the club can contest in the World Cup Football Tournament in future.